

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 01212 212246Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 H-03 VO-03 SCA-01 SAM-01 DRC-01

/058 W

----- 127855

R 210834Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2582

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1212

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS KS

SUBJ: ROKG DECISION TO REVOKE VISA OF NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDENT

1. FONMIN KIM TOLD AMBASSADOR EVENING OF FEB 20 THAT HE RECEIVED EXPLICIT INSTRUCTION TO ORDER CANCELLATION OF VISA OF TOKYO BASED NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDENT BERNARD KRISHER. KIM SAID HE WAS SENDING TELEGRAPHIC INSTRUCTIONS TO TOKYO AMBASSADOR KIM YONG SON EVENING OF FEB 20, TELLING HIM TO CALL KRISHER IN AND REVOKE VISA. REASON FOR ACTION AGAINST KRISHER IS HIS ARTICLE APPEARING IN FEB 18 NEWSWEEK PREDICTING UNREST IN ROK.

2. KIM SAID REVOCATION OF KRISHER'S VISA HAD BEEN URGED BY MINISTER OF PUBLIC INFORMATION DURING FEB 20 CABINET MEETING. ACCORDING KIM, HE STRONGLY OPPOSED THIS AND NO ACTION WAS TAKEN. HOWEVER, AT NSC MEETING LATER IN DAY, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AGAIN BROUGHT MATTER UP IN PRESENCE OF PRESIDENT WHO CONCURRED IN HIS RECOMMENDATION THAT KRISHER'S VISA BE CANCELLED. FONMIN SAID HE HAD HOPED TO DRAG HIS FEET ON THIS, BUT LATER RECEIVED PHONE CALL FROM PRIMIN SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCTING HIM TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION.

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3. FONMIN SAID HE FULLY AWARE THAT ACTION AGAINST KRISHER WILL BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND WILL LEAD TO FURTHER SPATE OF UNFAVORABLE US PRESS PLAY. IN VIEW EXPLICIT INSTRUCTION ON MATTER KIM INDICATED HIS HANDS ARE NOW TIED. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WAS SENDING PERSONAL LETTER BY COURIER TODAY (FEB 21) ASKING AMBASSADOR KIM IN TOKYO TO HOLD UP ACTION AND SEND MESSAGE CITING POLICY OBJECTIONS TO REVOCATION OF KRISHER'S VISA. THIS WOULD ALLOW MOFA TO REOPEN MATTER.

4. KIM ALSO ASKED IF THE AMBASSADOR WOULD RAISE MATTER WITH PRIMIN, SUPPORTING KIM'S VIEW THAT ACTION AGAINST KRISHER WOULD ONLY WORSEN RELATIONS WITH US PRESS AND FURTHER HARM ROKG IMAGE. AMBASSADOR SUBSEQUENTLY INQUIRED ABOUT THE MATTER THROUGH PRIMIN'S SECRETARY EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS. LATER PRIMIN'S SECRETARY SAID THERE SEEMED LITTLE PROSPECT OF REVERSAL DECISION TO CANCEL VISA.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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